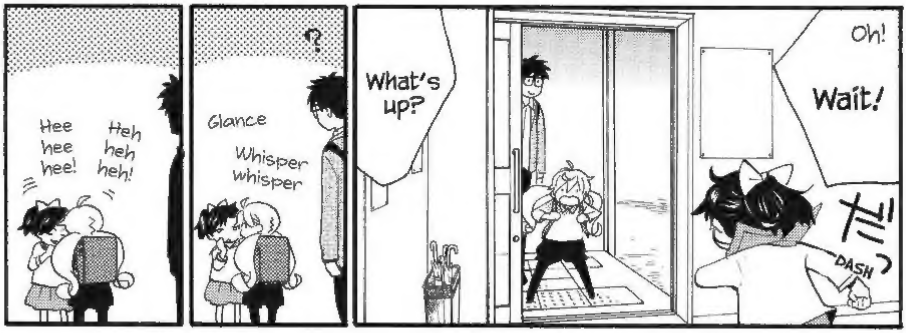
Nagisa-chan, bye-bye!
Bye-bye, Tsumugi!


Hee hee hee!
Heh heh heh!
?
Glance
Whisper whisper
What's up?
Oh!
Wait!
DASH

ばっ
GRIN
Tsumugi, what were you talking about?
Bye-bye!
Bye-bye!
Bye-bye!
Don't open your bag on the street.
Hey.
Wait, wait.

Here!
It's your birthday present!
Happy Birthday!
4/25
I couldn't wait until tomorrow.
Th-Thank you....!
Nagisa-chan taught me how to make it.
Wow!
It's called finger-knitting.

No, no! It's really well-made!
It doesn't look like I thought...
Not cute?
Daddy, what other stuff do you like?
See? It's got pretty colors, and it's woven really neatly...
Hmm...
That's not what I mean!
Huh?
I'll be happy with anything you give me.
After that happened...
Next time, I'll give you what you want for your birthday!
Huh?

Chapter 37 | Shellfish Hunting and Post-Graduation Plans
Gido Amagakure
Cooking Advisor Akari Taitou

...it was time for GOLDEN WEEK!
ZZSSSH
Whee!
Ah ha ha!
So that's why they said to get here before low tide...
It's so crowded!
I got us tools!
STUNNED
ぽかん
We're here to hunt for smell-fish!
I know that!
Shellfish, yeah.
A play on words ...?
It's cold!
We're not here to swim today!

You guys go do your thing.
I'm gonna go get a bunch for the shellfish special we're having at the café.
OKAY!
Ooh!
These are the things you can catch.
Shellfish Guide
Hamaguri
Shiofukigai
Mategai
Asari
Shirataebi
Hototogisugai
YAY! YAY!
Where can I find the asari clams?
Let's look around right at the water's edge.
Um...
It's supposedly best to wait until the tide goes out, but...
PLIP PLIP
CROWDED
There's too many people...
They say if you look super carefully you can find little holes.
And those are from the asari?
Yup yup.
HITHER THITHER
My back...
Oh! Here? Here?
A HOLE!

ばったり
COLLIDE
DIG
FOUND SOME!
Shinobu-chan!
We found them first!
Wait, is that you, Tsumu-tsumu?
It's crowded, so...
Hey! Everybody play nice!
I've seen her be-fore...
We come here every year.
Hey!
Hello, there!
So you're here too, huh, Kojika-san?
She's over there!
We brought Kotori with us...

DIG DIG DIG DIG
SKRAK
Er... Well...
Huh?
She's going on to college, right?
She still isn't sure...?
So I invited her to get her some fresh air.
It seems like she's been worried about her future plans.
Ahem.
!!
Tsumugi-chan!
Kotori-chan!

Hello...!
Hello!
Kotori-chan, this's amazing!
Heh...
Heh heh heh...
Tsu-mu—
TUG
Here, dig here!
Right here!
Huh? Huh?
We're gonna take a break.
Yeah.
Wha...?
Hey! No making other people do the work for you!

GASP.
Oh, hey!
Hello!
You've got almost as many as I do.
Yagi-chan, come here!
Hmm?
Just come here!
Do you know what Daddy likes?

What Kohei likes?
He likes you, right?
Sssh!
That's not what I mean!
Daddy, dig over there!
Sorry...
...that's my daughter over there.
Awww.
He used to make models in high school...
But only sometimes.
Hmm...
Aw...
I don't know what to get him for a birthday present.
Okay...
But wait.
You already gave him something, right?
Yeah.
But I want something more...
Uh huh. A finger-knitting thing.
Something that will make him happier...
Hmmm..

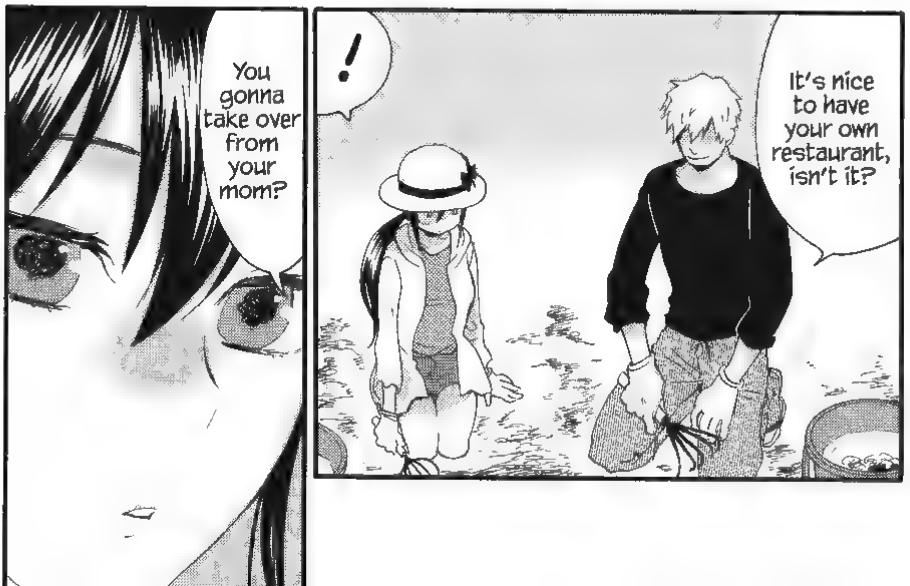
You want to make your dad happy, huh?
Yup!
Do you know, Kotori-chan?
Sorry, I don't...
Um... Um...
How about coupons for a shoulder massage?
That's not what I mean!
Jeez!
I'll go ask Shinobu-chan!

How am I supposed to know?
Ah ha ha...
This is a weird combination...

You guys are taking college entrance exams this year, right?
You sure you don't have to study?
Siiiiigh

Gasp!
I'm thinking about going to college, but...
Uh... Okay...
I feel bad for asking.
BA-DUM
ドキッ!!
Uh... Me?
When did you open your place, again?
Yagi-san, your café!

I see...
Oh...
So it was about five years ago, maybe?
I went to work and saved up money first.
Huh...


You gonna take over from your mom?
!
It's nice to have your own restaurant, isn't it?

About that...
...
Why not talk to your teacher instead of me?
Hey, Kohei!
Come dig here! There's hamaguri!
Whaaa?
Go somewhere else!
!!
Oh!
You're right.
You found a lot of them.
...
Yeah.

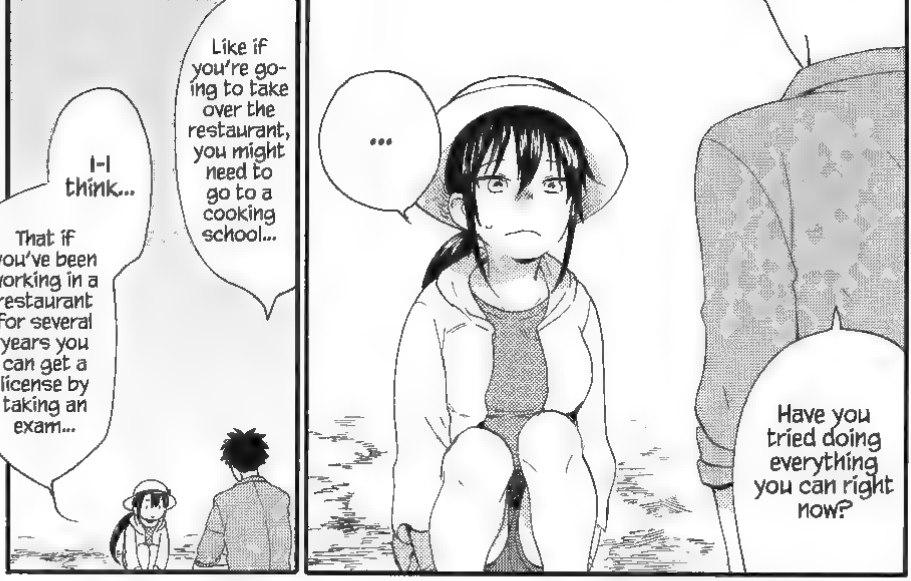
!
...Kojika-san...
...said something seemed to be bothering you.
DIG DIG
さく
さく
...
S-sensei...
When did you first decide to become a teacher?
Well, hmm...
It would've been around the time I was in high school, I think?

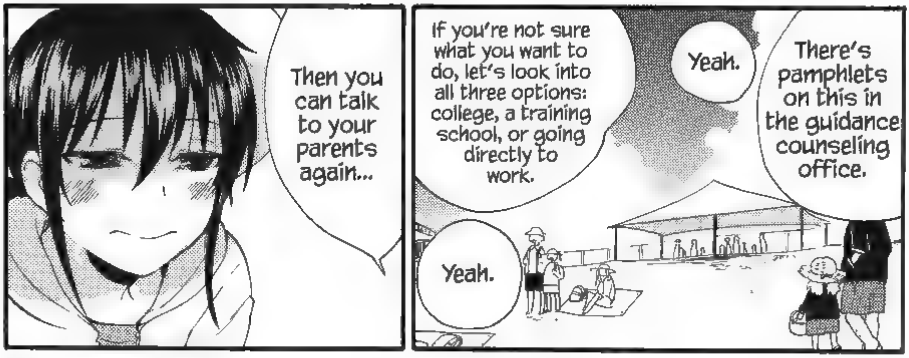
Someone was nice enough to say...
...that I was good at helping people study.
And that made me really happy.
I didn't have any real hobbies or things I wanted to do.
So it was a small thing...
...but I think that was where it started.
Is there something you want to be...
...or something you like right now?

I...
I like food...
...and the restaurant.
So...
I was thinking I'd like to take over the restaurant...
But...
I'm not...
...really that great a chef...
And my knife skills aren't there yet...
So of course they're going to be against it...
Your parents were against you being a chef?
It wasn't that they were against it...
More like they wanted me to think about other things...
First...
...maybe ...

I get the feeling that you could be anything you wanted to.
When I look you and Tsumugi...
I can see where your parents are coming from.
This is like pulling teeth.
But...

You'll never get to start from the exact same place you could have earlier.
You'll have chances to do something at any age, but...
...then you should give it some serious thought.
If there's really something you want to do...

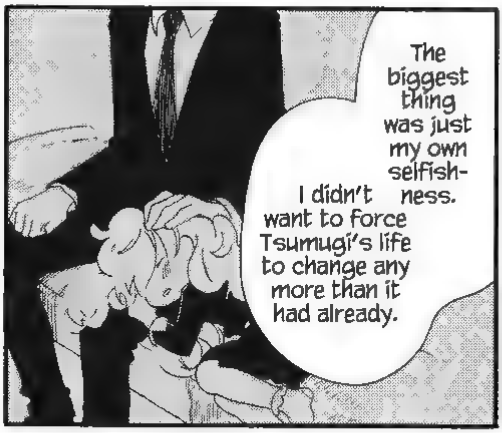

Like if you're going to take over the restaurant, you might need to go to a cooking school...
I-I think...
That if you've been working in a restaurant for several years you can get a license by taking an exam...
...
Have you tried doing everything you can right now?


Then you can talk to your parents again...
If you're not sure what you want to do, let's look into all three options: college, a training school, or going directly to work.
Yeah.
There's pamphlets on this in the guidance counseling office.
Yeah.

Thank you.

Oh!
Um...
Sensei...
You really are a teacher, aren't you?

I was going to take Tsumugi with me...
I once was talking about quitting work and going back to the countryside...
!
Nah...
Y'know, I...


The biggest thing was just my own selfishness.
I didn't want to force Tsumugi's life to change any more than it had already.

Well...
A lot of things happened, and I ended up staying here.
My grandmother was in the hospital.
A lot of stuff overlapped at once.
I looked really hard to find a new job.

!

Sorry...
I'm talking too much.
No!
Not at all.

And, um...
So I talked with the school and had them take me off being a homeroom teacher...
...negotiated my days off...
...and then I looked at the stuff that was available for single-father households...
...and which services we could use that were right for us...

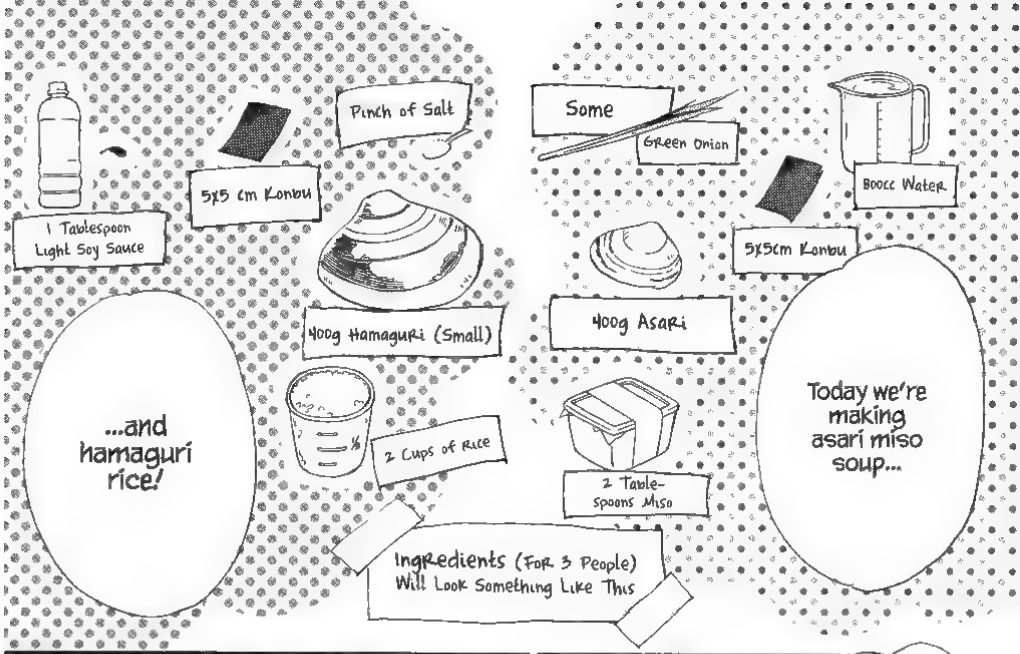
I'm...
...going to think more...
...about what I really want to be.
Daddy!

Look, look!
Oh, wow!
You found a whole bunch!
I don't know if we can eat all these.
We'll keep enough to make miso soup...
...and give the rest to Yagi, okay?
Looks like you've got some hamaguri, too!
Huh?
Oh, these are hamaguri?
Can you put them into miso soup the same way?
I'll have to look it up.
Sensei, Tsumugi-chan...
Why not eat at my place?

RATTLE
See you!
Later!

Thank you so much!
Here are the ingredients you asked for.
We went and changed!
Here we are!

Sand!
That's right, they were in the sand!
We're almost done getting the sand out.
Yup!
They have horns sticking out!
OOOH...
PLIP


Today we're making asari miso soup...
Some
Green Onion
Boocc Water
5x5cm Kombu
400g Asari
2 Table-spoons Miso
Ingredients (For 3 People) Will Look Something Like This
...and hamaguri rice!
1 Tablespoon Light Soy Sauce
5x5 cm Kombu
Pinch of Salt
400g Hamaguri (Small)
½
2 Cups of Rice

Yup, yup!
Like this?
Great work!
CLATTER
CLATTER

...wash the hamaguri.
Once the rice is rinsed and the hamaguri have spit out all the sand...
SCRUB
SCRUB
PSSSHH
Hmm hmm!

Then take them out once they open up.
Skim the scum off the top...
The scum...

I wanna watch!
Be careful, 'kay?

Then add the hamaguri and turn on the heat.
Put 300 cc of water and the kombu in a pot, then let it sit for an hour.
!!

Yes, that's right!
But it's safe to assume that once they open they're cooked, right?
Heat them too much and they'll get tough.
Whoa...
Maybe!
'cause it's hot? Did they open 'cause it's hot?
Like, "Oww! So hot!"
POP
Hold onto the adductor muscle.
Fiddle fiddle
Take the shell and go like this...
See...?
Now we take out the meat.
Take the part that's connected and give it a yank.
A yank?
Hmm ...?
Okay!
You do the rest!
I did it!

So first, let's make the miso soup!
Then all we have to do is cook the rice and mix it all together.
Then add salt and water until you have enough liquid to cook two cups of rice.
Take the rinsed rice and add the liquid you used to boil the shellfish and the soy sauce you poured on the hamaguri meat.
Pour the light soy sauce on hamaguri meat, let it sit for a few minutes, then drain off the excess soy sauce
Onions go in after you turn off the heat, okay?
Then add the miso once the asari open!
I can't wait to eat them!
Wow!
Drool
SIMMER SIMMER
Simmer
Simmer
Simmer
Scum!
Once it boils, set it to low heat and skim off the scum...
...and then heat a pan where I've added water and kombu.
Now we'll wash the asari the same way...
The same as before ...
ほ WARM
What a lovely color!
Mix the flavored hamaguri into the rice...
か PUFF
BEEP
It's done!
The rice is done

We're finished!!
Asari miso soup!
And hamaguri rice!
NOM
MMM
Let's eat! Let's eat!
It looks so good!
They had horns sticking out just a little while ago.

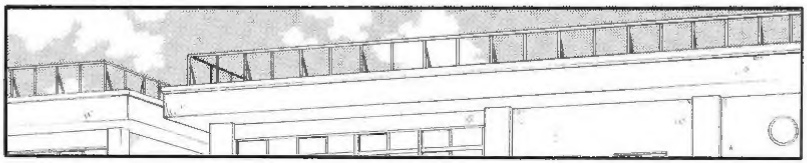
It's good!

The shellfish are so tender!
Guess that means we got them cooked just right.
I can't stop eating!
You can really taste the shellfish broth.

Do you like making food?
Daddy...
It's tasty, too.
...you caught yourself, huh?
It's neat to eat something...
It's fun.
Hmm...
Yeah, I like it now a lot more than I used to.
What? What's up? ö.ö
Tsumugi-chan...
...has been looking all day to find out what it is you like.
Huh?
Then you do have something you like!

So isn't it kind of sad that you only like me?
...and drawing too.
...and lately I also like running and school...
I mean, I like you, Daddy, but I also like Magi-Gal...
I see... So Tsumugi was thinking about me...
Whaaa?
Go somewhere else!
But...
...you said you like making food!
I'm glad!
SHE WAS WORRIED ABOUT ME.
...I'll get you something like that as a present!
Next year...

People who say that are the hardest to get presents for!
But really, any present is okay.
Tsu-mugi...
...I want a little more.
It's okay!
We have plenty!
Seconds!



To be continued...